

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, YO
SUBJECT: KRSKO NUCLEAR REACTOR AND NONPROLIFERATION POLICY

1. DURING A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR DEVOTED TO A BROAD REVIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BERNARDIC, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES IN RECENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY FOR THE KRSKO REACTOR, EXPOUNDED FORCEFULLY HIS VIEW OF YUGOSLAV--AND US--POLICY AFFECTING THE ISSUE.

2. WITHOUT ENTERING INTO SPECIFICS OF PENDING NEGOTIATION ON KRSKO FUEL SUPPLY, BERNARDIC MADE CLEAR THAT ISSUE IS ONE OF PRINCIPLE, AND ASSERTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL NOT INFRINGE ITS SOVEREIGNTY EVEN IF THE PRICE IS "TO SCRAP THE KRSKO FACILITY." REFERRING TO WASHINGTON'S PROBLEMS WITH THE WEST EUROPEANS, BRAZIL, INDIA AND OTHERS, AS WELL AS CONTRAST BETWEEN US POLICY AND THAT OF SOVIETS, BRITISH AND FRENCH, BERNARDIC DRILY IMPLIED THAT BASIC DIFFICULTY WAS WASHINGTON'S. HE ALSO EXPOUNDED ON INJUSTICE OF ASKING YUGOSLAVIA, AS SIGNER OF NPT, TO TAKE ON SAME, OR GREATER, COMMITMENTS THAN NON-SIGNERS.

3. BERNARDIC SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAV REPOSE TO U.S.
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PROPOSAL IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN BELGRADE AND BY REPUBLICAN AUTHORITIES, AND WOULD BE PRESENTED TO US IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR MEET WITH HIM SOON TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN MORE DETAIL.

4. BERNARDIC CHARACTERIZED HIMSELF AS BEING THE STRONGEST ADVOCATE WITHIN THE GOV FOR AN UNCOMPROMISING POSITION

IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USG, AND ADDED THAT SO FAR
AS HE WAS CONCERNED YUGOSLAVIA, WHILE IT COULD REITERATE
COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE, SHOULD NOT AGREE TO ANY NEW
UNDERTAKING--PARTICULARLY IN A BILATERAL CONTEXT.

COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS EVIDENT HYPERBOLE, SINCE WE UNDER-
STAND THAT THE YUGOSLAV RESPONSE NOW CIRCULATING DOES, IN
FACT, EXPAND YUGOSLAV UNDERTAKINGS, IT REFLECTS THE DEPTH
OF THEIR FEELINGS AND SHOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER OF THE
LIMITS OF THEIR FLEXIBILITY.

EAGLEBURGER

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